

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-18 are pending. Claims 14-18 are newly added. Claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in Fig. 2, for example. Support for newly added Claims 14-18 can be found in Fig. 2 and in the published application in numbered paragraph [0023], for example. Further support for newly added Claim 17 can be found in numbered paragraph [0026], for example. Further support for newly added Claim 18 can be found in Fig. 1, for example. No new matter is added.

Claims 5 and 6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-6 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Politicchio (U.S. Patent No. 6,996,871, herein "Politicchio"). Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Politicchio in view of Sandqvist (PCT Patent Publication No. WO 94/23634, herein "Sandqvist").

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the courtesy of a personal interview granted to Applicants' undersigned representative. In combination with the Interview Summary provided by Primary Examiner Karls, the substance of the personal interview is substantially summarized below in accordance with MPEP § 713.04.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 as indefinite, as Claims 5 and 6 are canceled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is negated.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-6 and 11-13 as obvious over Politicchio, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

a first wiping sheet having a second length and second width, as measured parallel to the first length and width,

respectively, the first wiping sheet being disposed on one side of the base sheet, the first wiping sheet including
a wiping portion adapted to be disposed on the head facing away from the head, and
a first projecting part including a part of the wiping portion, which is reinforced with another material superimposed on the first wiping sheet in an area corresponding to the first projecting part,
a second projecting part including a second part of the wiping portion, the second projecting part extending outward from an edge of the head and having a different shape from the first projecting part,
the first projecting part being adapted to extend outward from an edge of the head by a projecting length M when the cleaning sheet is attached to the head on an opposite side of the head from which the second projecting part extends,

Accordingly, the first wiping sheet includes a first projecting part extending from one edge of the head and a second projecting part extending from an opposite edge of the head. **The second projecting part has a different shape from the first projecting part.**

The outstanding Office Action relies on the functional cuffs (411) and (413) for the recited projecting part.¹ As discussed during the personal interview, the functional cuffs (411) and (413) of Policicchio have **identical** shapes. Accordingly, as further discussed during the personal interview, Policicchio fails to teach or suggest a first wiping sheet including a first projecting part extending from one edge of a head and a second part projecting from an opposite edge of the head, wherein the first and second projecting parts have different shapes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Policicchio for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 2-4 and 11-13 each depend from amended independent Claim 1 and patentably distinguish over Policicchio for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 1 does.

¹ Outstanding Office Action, page 3.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 7-10 as obvious over Policicchio in view of Sandqvist, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

As discussed above, amended independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Policicchio. Sandqvist fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Policicchio. Rather, Sandqvist does not teach or suggest projecting parts, much less that first and second projecting parts extending from opposite edges of a head have different shapes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no proper combination of Policicchio and Sandqvist would include all of the features recited in amended independent Claim 1, and Claims 7-10 depending from amended independent Claim 1 patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Policicchio and Sandqvist.

Applicants wish to make the following further remarks regarding depending claims.

Newly added dependent Claim 14 recites:

The cleaning sheet according to claim 1, wherein the first and second projecting parts are integral continuations of the edges of the first wiping sheet.

Accordingly, the first and second projecting parts are integral continuations of the edges of the first wiping sheet. One non-limiting example of the above-noted feature can be found in Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 2, the projecting parts (10) and (11) are part of the wiping sheet (13) and extend beyond the head (20).

As discussed during the personal interview, Policicchio describes functional cuffs (411) and (413) that are flipped back and forth and are attached to an underside of the scrubbing layer (401). As shown in Fig. 12, the functional cuffs (411) and (413) are not integral continuations of edges of the first wiping sheet. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added dependent Claim 14 further patentably distinguishes over Policicchio for at least the additional reasons discussed above.

Newly added dependent Claim 15 recites:

The cleaning sheet according to claim 1, wherein the first projecting part extends away from the head in a first direction while the head is moved in the first direction.

Accordingly, the first projecting part extends away from the head in a first direction while the head is moved in the first direction.

As discussed during the personal interview, the functional cuffs (411) and (413) flip back and forth based upon the direction in which they move. As shown in Fig. 13, when the head is moved to the left, the functional cuff on the left side of the head tucks underneath the head. Similarly, as shown in Fig. 14, when the head moves to the right, the functional cuff on the right hand side of the head tucks underneath the head. Policicchio states:

FIGS. 11 and 12 illustrate a cleaning pad 400 comprising two **free-floating**, looped functional cuffs 411 and 413, similar to the functional cuff 207 in FIG. 10. **Referring to FIG. 12, during a typical cleaning method, the cleaning pad 400 is moved in the Y_f direction across a hard surface and functional cuffs 411 and 413 are flipped such that surfaces 417 and 425 are in contact with the surface being cleaned and are capable of picking-up particulate matter.** The cleaning pad 100 is then moved across the hard surface in the Y_b direction, causing the functional cuffs 411 and 413 to flip over such that surfaces 419 and 423 are in contact with the surface being cleaned. The particulate matter picked-up by surface 425 is trapped between surface 425 and scrubbing layer 401. Surfaces 419 and 423 are then able to pick-up additional particulate matter from the surface being cleaned. **When the cleaning pad 400 is moved back across the hard surface in the Y_f direction, the additional particulate matter picked-up is trapped between surface 423 and scrubbing layer 401.**²

Accordingly, the functional cuffs (411) and (413) flip when moved in the direction (Y_f) such that surfaces (417) and (425) are in contact with the surface being cleaned. In other words, the function cuff at the front edge of the head tucks underneath the head when moved in the direction of that cuff. Similarly, when the head is moved in the direction (Y_b) as shown in Fig. 14, the surfaces (419) and (423) (see Fig. 12) are in contact with the floor, and the

² Policicchio, col. 14, lines 44-62.

functional cuff (413) is tucked underneath the head. Thus, Policicchio fails to teach or suggest that the first projecting part extends away from the head in a first direction while the head is moved in the first direction. Rather, Policicchio teaches away from the above-noted feature inasmuch as Policicchio performs a specific function by flipping the functional cuffs (411) and (413) underneath the head. For example, Policicchio states : "the additional particulate matter picked-up is trapped between surface 423 and scrubbing layer 401."³ Accordingly, not only does Policicchio fail to teach or suggest the above-noted feature, but modification of Policicchio to include the above-noted feature would render Policicchio unsuitable for its intended purpose of trapping particulate matter between the surface (423) and scrubbing layer (401). Therefore, Policicchio teaches away from the above-noted feature recited in dependent Claim 15.

Newly added dependent Claim 16 recites that the second projecting part extends away from the head in the second direction while the head is moved in the second direction. As discussed above, Policicchio requires its functional cuffs to flip underneath the head while the head is moved in the direction of the functional cuff. Accordingly, newly added dependent Claim 16 further patentably distinguishes over Policicchio for at least the additional reasons discussed above.

Newly added dependent Claim 17 recites that the first projecting part has a zigzag shaped leading edge across the second length, and the second projecting part has a straight leading edge across an entire length of the second projecting part.

Not only does Policicchio fail to teach or suggest a zigzag shaped leading edge, but Policicchio describes its functional cuffs as flipping underneath the head while the head is moved in a direction of cleaning. The functional cuffs, as shown throughout the figures, are smooth loops and do not include any zigzag shape. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

³ Policicchio, col. 14, lines 60-63.


submit that newly added dependent Claim 17 further patentably distinguishes over Policicchio for at least the reasons discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4 and 7-18 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Karls deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, she is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number.

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